

# California GARDEN

Fortieth Year

WINTER, 1949

Volume 40, No. 4

## CONTENTS

### FROM ARTICHOKE TO ZUCCINI

Guy L. Fleming

### CAMELLIAS IN CONTAINERS

Lucien C. Atherton

### VALENTIEN FLOWER PAINTINGS

Ethel Bailey Higgins

### NATALPLUMS

Alfred C. Hottes

### HOW TO GROW ROSES

Robert H. Calvin

### WORTHWHILE VINES

Ethel L. Calloway

### LEAVES FROM AN OBSERVERS NOTEBOOK

Marion A. Lippitt

### COVER—NATALPLUMS

Alfred C. Hottes

Upper—*Carissa grandiflora*

Lower—*Carissa carandus*



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Finding the perfect name for a new seedling is always something of a problem, however, occasionally one is inspired and the name is born quite naturally—so it was with our Camellia, Mary A. Greer.

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(We are sorry that none will be available for this season—but watch for it.)

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CLOSED TUESDAYS

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## California Garden

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Unless otherwise stated, meetings will  
be held in the Floral Association Building.

### DECEMBER

#### OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, Dec. 4 1 to 5 p.m.**  
Exhibit and Demonstration of:  
"Shrubs as Novel Christmas  
Decorations About the House."  
Chauncy Jerabek, Horticulturist,  
Nursery Division, Balboa Park.

#### REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, Dec. 20 8 p.m.**  
Lecture: "The Winter Garden,"  
Roland S. Hoyt, Landscape Archi-  
tect, Christmas Festivities.

### JANUARY

#### OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, Jan. 1 1 to 5 p.m.**  
New Year's Resolutions, by Gard-  
eners and for Gardeners. Exhibit  
by Margaret Wheatley.

### Back Numbers

The following back numbers of the  
California Garden are urgently need-  
ed for the files. Leave with Alice  
Greer, 2972 First Ave., or telephone  
W. 2267.

July, 1909; July through Dec. 1911;  
Jan. through June, 1912; Sept. and  
Dec. 1919; Dec. 1920; Jan. through  
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Jan. 1932; March 1933; Jan. 1934;  
Sept. 1935; Jan., Feb., April, and  
July 1936; Sept. 1937; Nov. 1939; Sum-  
mer and Autumn 1936.

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California Garden (4 issues)	- - - - -	\$1.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Name.....

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Date.....

*Memberships and gifts are deductible for income tax.*

## Calendar of Events

### REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, Jan. 17 8 p.m.**  
Lecture: "California Natives and  
Their Horticultural Value," Dr.  
Phillip Munz, Director, Rancho  
Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

### FEBRUARY

#### OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, Feb. 5 1 to 5 p.m.**  
Exhibit, "Trees for San Diego  
County," with Illustrations and  
Specimen Portions.

#### REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, Feb. 16 8 p.m.**  
In combination with the Fine Arts  
Society in Fine Arts Gallery,  
Balboa Park. Illustrated Lecture:  
"Italian Gardens and Villas,"  
Hazel Chace West, Art and  
Garden Authority.

### ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB

Regular meeting on the third  
Friday of each month in the  
Floral Building.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP,  
MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION  
REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CON-  
GRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS A-  
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2. The owner is: (If owned by a corpora-  
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ity other than that of a bona fide owner.

(Signed) ALICE M. CLARK, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
30th day of September, 1949.  
(Seal) (Signed) Beatrice J. Calchini  
(My commission expires February 18, 1951.)

# California Garden

Fortieth Year

Volume 40, No. 4

Winter 1949

*Guy Fleming, a pioneer member of the San Diego Floral Association, is now back in the fold as Vice-President. We think of him gratefully as one of those most responsible for the preservation of the Torrey Pines Park Area. Since his recent retirement from the State Division of Beaches and Parks, he has found time to enliven us with these "Old Herbal" tales of vegetables.*

## From Artichokes to Zucchini

GUY L. FLEMING

The origin and world-wide distribution of our garden vegetables and other food plants is a history of the agricultural development of man. It is a history of human migrations, military conquests, exploration of new lands, of famines and also of changing food tastes.

The history of the cultivation of plants carries us back into true prehistoric times, both in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Just when man began to use and cultivate plants is not certain, but archeological records point to the fact that it may have been at least 20,000 years ago. Some of the earliest known writings on the subject of agriculture date back to about 3000 B. C. They come to us from the delta of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the site of Mesopotamia, which is considered the cradle of European agriculture.

In the Americas, recent archeological research by Junius Bird, of the American Museum of Natural History, gives evidence that a primitive agriculture was practiced along the Peruvian coast fully 3000 years ago.

It is from accounts of exploration and conquest, histories of ancient cultures, archeological reports, old herbals and similar sources that we gather the data for the stories of the origin of the vegetables of our gardens.

The Artichoke is a native of Southern Europe, Northern Africa and the Canary Islands. This glori-



fied thistle belongs to the Sunflower Family and has been in cultivation well over 2500 years.

Directions for the cultivation and use of the Artichoke were recorded by Greek and Roman historians.

Gerard's Herbal of 1597 has this to say of the Artichoke: "The Artichoke is to be planted in a fat and fruitful soile; they doe love water and moist ground. They commit great error who cut away the side and superfluous leaves that grow by the sides, thinking thereby to increase the greatness of the fruit, when as in truth they deprive the root from much water by that means, which would nourish it to

the feeding of the fruit; for if you marke the trough or hollow channel that is in every leafe, it shall appeare very evidently, that the Creator in his secret wisdom did ordain those furrows, even from the extreme point of the leafe to the ground where it is fastened to the root, for no other purpose but to guide and lead the water which falls farre off, onto the root, knowing that without such store of water the plant would wither and the fruit pine away and come to nothing.

"Vertues. The nailes, that is, the white and thicke parts which are the bottome of the outward scales or flakes of the fruit of the Artichoke, and also the middle pulpe whereon the downy seeds stand, are eaten bothe raw with pepper and salt, and commonly boyled with the broth of fat flesh, with pepper added and are accounted a dainty dish, being pleasant to the taste, and good to produce bodily vigor: So likewise the middle ribs of the leaves being made white and tender by good cherishing and looking to, are brought to the table as a great service together with other junkets; they are eaten with pepper and salt as be raw artichokes."

The Asparagus is also a native of Southern Europe and Western Asia. It belongs to the Lily Family. There are over 150 species of Asparagus. Those we know, in addition to the garden vegetable, are; Asparagus medeoloides,—the Smilax we use so



much in floral decoration, *Asparagus plumosus*, the Asparagus Fern, and *Asparagus sprengeri*, an excellent vining species that bears great quantities of berries at Christmas time.

The garden Asparagus has been in cultivation for over 2000 years and was probably brought into the gardens of Southern Europe after forays into foreign territory by the Roman armies. The elder Cato gives directions for planting Asparagus seed and general cultivation of the plant. According to the elder Pliny, the Romans were aware of the difference in quality of this vegetable in Nero's time, the variety grown near Ravenna, in Southern Italy, being considered best. It was so large that three spears weighed one pound.

Leonard Meager's "English Garden," published in 1683, informs us that, in his time, the London market was well supplied with "Forced Asparagus."

It was first grown in a limited way in the United States near Concord, Mass., about 1825. The first large commercial plantings were made in the eastern United States about 1872, and it was only about 50 years ago that asparagus became a commercial crop in California.

All of the Beans that now grow in our gardens are natives of the Americas and have been cultivated in this country for many thousand years.

Lima Beans were introduced into Europe soon after the Spanish conquest of Peru, and from Europe came into the kitchen gardens of eastern North America, and thence into general cultivation as a crop plant.

The many varieties of String Beans we know came to us from Peru and the west coast of South America, via Europe and up through Mexico.

Before the introduction of the Lima Bean and String Bean, the Windsor, or Broad Bean, a native of North Africa, was the only bean grown in the European countries. This member of the Bean Family is also an ancient in human use, as is

evidenced by seeds found among the remains of the Neolithic culture, the Bronze and Iron ages of Europe. The Broad Bean is mentioned in the writings of Homer, about 800 B. C.

Gerard's Herbal, in reporting the "Vertues of the Kidney Beanes" from the Americas, states: "The fruits and cods of the Kidney Beanes boyled together before they are ripe, and buttered, and so eaten with their cods are exceedingly delicate meate—but if you eat them when they are ripe they are neither toothsome nor wholesome."

Beets and Chard are natives of the Mediterranean region and Western Asia. They have been in cultivation over 2000 years.

Again quoting Gerard's Herbal: "Vertues. The White Beet, being eaten when it is boyled nourisheth little or nothing, and is not wholesome as lettuce. The Red Beet or Roman Beet boyled and eaten with oyle, vinegre and pepper, is a most excellent and delicate salad, but what might be made of the red and beautiful root, I refer unto the courious and cunning cooke, who no doubt when he had the view thereof, and is assured that it is both good and wholesome, will make thereof many and divers dishes, both faire and good."

The Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brussels-sprouts, Broccoli and Kale all belong to the Mustard Family, and were devolved from the wild cabbage that grew in many parts of Europe. Different countries cultivated different varieties of these vegetables. All are of very ancient cultivation and the history of their development from wildlings to their present forms is very interesting.

Gerard's Herbal gives the following unique account of the Cabbage for the England of the 16th century: "The Temperature. All the Coleworts (Cabbages) have a drieing facultie, with a nitrous or salt quality, where by they mightly cleanse, either in juice or in broth.—But it yieldeth to the body small nourishment, and doth not engender goode, but a grosse and melancholicke bloud. The White Cabbage is next best to the Cole-florey;

yet Cato doth commend the russet cole (Red Cabbage); but he knew neither the white ones nor the Cole-florey, for if he had his censure would have bin otherwise.

"The Vertues. Dioscorides teacheth, that the Colewort being eaten is good for them that have dim eies, and that are troubled with the shaking palsie. It is reported that the raw Colewort beeing eaten before meate, doth preserve a man from drunkennesse; the reason yielde, for that there is a natural enmitie betweene it and the vine, which is such, as if it grow neere unto it, forthwith the vine perisheth and withereth away;—The juyce of Coleworts, as Dioscorides writeth, beeing taken with Flour de lys and nitre, make the body soluble; and beeing drunk with wine it is a remedy against the bitings of venomous beasts. The broth wherein the herbe hath been sodden is marvellous good for the sinewes and joints and likewise for the canker of the eies, which cannot be healed by any other means, if they be washed therewith."

All of our varieties of Sweet Corn, Field Corn and Pop Corn, are developed from varieties that were grown by native inhabitants of North and South America for many centuries before Columbus discovered these continents.

Gerard describes our Corn as "Turkey Wheat or Turkey Corne.

"Temperature and Vertues. Turkey Wheat doth nourish far less than wheat, rice, barley or otes. The bread that is made thereof is meanly white, without bran, it is hard and dri as Biskit is and has in it no clamminesse at all; for which cause it is of hard digestion and yieldeth the body little or no nourishment;—We have as yet no certaine proof or experience concerning the virtues of this kinde of Corne; although the barbarous Indians, which know no better, are constrained to make a virtue of a necessitie and thinke it a good food, whereas we may easily judge, that it nourisheth but little, and is of hard and evil digestion, a more convenient food for swine than for men." (Continued on page 14)



*Over a year ago, Luc'en Atherton gave us a fine exposition on Camellias. Now we can learn to grow them in redwood boxes. If we only had time to follow his expert advice, the flowers from our container-plants might all wear blue-ribbon bibs at the Camelia Show in Balboa Park on February 25th and 26th. He is the director of this spectacle whose inviting theme is: "Gifts of the Orient."*

## Camellias in Containers

LUCIEN C. ATHERTON

Few plants lend themselves so well to container culture as do the beautiful, free-flowering camellias, with their luxuriant, year-around, green foliage. The adaptation of this ornamental shrub to containers is not a recent development. The Chinese had been growing camellias in containers for a long period of time before an English ship first took them to Europe.

Due to climatic conditions, camellia culture in Europe and many areas in the United States depends entirely upon container-grown plants. Yet these areas have produced and are still producing some of the finest of the newest varieties. Their adaptability to container conditions makes it possible to enjoy camellias wherever greenhouses are found. Even in the southern and western states, where camellias are easily grown out-of-doors as garden shrubs, the present trend is toward the use of containers, because of their many advantages over ground culture.

The basic requirements for raising camellias in pots are similar to those for growing them in the ground. The plants need good moisture, drainage, shade and rich humus soil. Camellias in containers require more attention, especially in regard to water and fertilizer, than do earth-grown plants. The necessary repotting involves a certain amount of additional work.

In the San Diego area the few drawbacks of pot culture are more than offset by the many advantages. San Diego soils are very spotty; some, of heavy clay, pre-

sent a drainage problem, while others contain much sandstone and cobblestone conglomerate. In spite of our ideal climate, unsatisfactory soil and other conditions are responsible for the large percentage of camellias we grow in containers.

Camellia plants will do well in small containers and do not mind being root-bound, provided they receive adequate food and water. By this method good drainage, the number one requirement, is ideally met. Watering is effective, and the plant receives the maximum benefit without waste. Growth is best when uniform amounts of water are always present in the soil. This is achieved by heavy watering at infrequent intervals. Keep the soil-level at least an inch and a half below the top of the container, to serve as a water basin and soil retainer. Syringing creates humidity and maintains clean foliage, but is no substitute for watering. Never allow a potted plant to dry out.

Fertilization of container-plants can be accurate in application, and positive in result. As all of the food is absorbed by the plant, guard against over-feeding. Do not experiment with fertilizers. Use the accepted and proven products, such as cottonseed meal. Concentrated liquid fertilizers are dangerous when used by the inexperienced.

Soil conditions, such as acidity and humus content, are easily regulated. More humus is needed in the soil mixture for potted plants. Additional peatmoss aids drainage, conserves moisture, and increases the acid content of the soil. Half

peatmoss and half sandy loam make a good mixture. Some prefer one-third leafmold, one-third peatmoss and one-third garden loam. Salts and other injurious water-borne minerals are easily leached out. Mulching is effective.

It is an established fact that potted camellias bloom earlier in the life of the plant as well as earlier in the season, with a greater number of blooms. Container-plants require less space. Gardeners who are limited by the size of city lots can add more new and choice varieties to their collections by this method of culture.

The mobility of container-plants permits easy regulation of climatic conditions that influence the growth and flowers. It enables one to arrange his camellias in any desired effect, for blooming display, or for a part of the general landscape pattern. It is easy to protect choice blossoms from the elements. Those who do not own their own homes may take their plants with them on moving day. This mobility also makes it possible to exhibit prize varieties at flower shows and other displays at a minimum of inconvenience. A collection of camellias in containers is continually increasing in value and can easily be disposed of at a good profit.

Potted plants make it easy to control blossom-blight and other fungus diseases. Insect and disease-infested plants can be isolated and properly treated without endangering the healthy ones. Keep the container off the ground, to aid drainage, to prevent earthworms and other injurious pests from entering, and to prevent roots from growing through the drain-holes into the ground. Earthworms cause the soil to break down into a gummy or slimy silt which may suffocate the fine roots. Keep the space underneath the box clear of snails, slugs and other pests.

Camellias in containers must be repotted to keep abreast of the normal growth of the plant, but do not hurry this operation as they thrive in a root-bound condition. Watch for definite evidence of excessive root-binding and growth-check before repotting.

In stepping up the size of the container, the accepted plan is to double its volume which, in clay pots, means an increase of one inch in diameter. Clay pots are light and inexpensive for larger plants and do not lose too much moisture but in small pots the plants dry out too rapidly and the roots go through the drainage holes too soon. Use clay pots only when other containers are unsuitable.

Most camellias are purchased in heavy tin cans, which are light, inexpensive, easily handled and maintain a good soil condition. If painted green, they will be attractive for several years. Sizeable holes for drainage and aeration should be punched in the bottom or the sides of the cans. Increase from the gallon size to the three-gallon egg can, filled two-thirds full, which should be adequate for three to five years. The next step-up is to a five-gallon bucket, for plants ten to fifteen years old. The final move can be to a large galvanized drum of from fifteen to thirty-gallon capacity. One can only approximate the number of years for which a certain sized container will prove adequate because of the differences in the rate of growth of the various varieties and the influence of climatic and soil conditions.

I prefer going from the gallon can into a series of redwood boxes. While expensive they are the lightest and most durable of the wooden materials, they provide insulation, maintain moisture and do not need painting. I prefer the natural weathered redwood color, both in relation to the garden landscape



Courtesy Southern California Camellia Society Bulletin  
Well grown specimen of Camellia, Miss Lousiana, in 12-inch pot.

and to the camellia plant itself.

The first box, good for three to five years, is 12 inches square at the top, 10 inches deep. The plant is next shifted to a box 18 inches square at the top, 16 inches square at the bottom and 12 inches deep, for an eight to ten-year growth period. A third box, 24 inches square at the top, 22 inches square

at the base and 24 inches deep, should last indefinitely. However, very large plants, eight to ten feet tall, with a diameter of four inches or more, will do better if moved to a 36-inch box made of two-inch material. This plan gives adequate growth space for fifty years or

(Continued on page 13)

*The Natural History Museum in San Diego, which served as a hospital during the last war, recently marked its Seventy fifth Anniversary with a grand re-opening. It seemed appropriate to ask Mrs. Higgins, the Museum's ever-helpful Curator of Botany, to tell about one of the priceless possessions of her department. The time may come when the Valentien paintings of native California flowers will be as famous as the glass flowers in Harvard University Museum, Cambridge. Our first magazine cover was designed by Mr. Valentien.*

## Valentien Wild Flower Paintings

ETHEL BAILEY HIGGINS

Among the treasures of the San Diego Natural History Museum is the series of water colors known as the "Valentien Paintings", representing some 1200 California native wild flowers, which was presented to the San Diego Natural History Society in March, 1933, by Robert P. Scripps, executor of the estate of Miss Ellen P. Scripps. The collection consists of 22 volumes, containing 50 sheets each, and a number never bound. Shortly after receiving this gift we obtained the facts about Mr. Valentien's artistic career, on which this report is based, from his widow.

Born in Ohio, in 1862, he eventually found an outlet for his love of flowers in the Rookwood Pottery Company of Cincinnati, where he became head decorator. Owners of Rookwood of his period feel that Mr. Valentien's subtle understanding of flowers and his delicate interpretation of their beauty, enhance the value of his pieces.

Mr. Valentien drifted into painting, incidentally. While he and his wife were visiting in Switzerland, Mrs. Valentien, an artist in her own right, attempted to register the beauty of the Alpine flora. Her husband came to her assistance with such spectacular results that he decided to pursue the new interest in earnest. Coming to California, they lived for a time at Honey Springs Ranch, in San Diego County. It was there that Mr. Valentien began the work of flower painting which he continued for so many years. In the succeeding months he completed 135 wild flower portraits, which were purchased by the Cincinnati Museum.

From 1909 to 1917, Mr. Valentien gave his full time to filling an order for Miss Scripps. He made a paint-

ing a day, unless the subject was too complicated, averaging 150 a year during the eight years he devoted to her project. Mrs. Valentien collected his plant material for him. After a painting was made, the specimen used as a subject would be pressed and sent to Dr. W. M. Hall, then of the University of California, who determined the nomenclatural titles.

Obviously, Mr. Valentien had a preference for some particular subjects, for instance, the Calochortus or Mariposa-lily, to which he returned many times. Lupines, with their numerous specie, and the Ceonothus or Wild lilac, often appear as favorites. The members of the Cactus family also had a fascination for him, perhaps because of the challenge they presented. They are portrayed with such exactitude that one is almost afraid to touch them, lest painful results be experienced from contact with their spines. These spines and their arrangement are so precise and so correct that one wonders how such perfection could have been achieved in the few days allotted to their painting. The beauty of their realism is truly marvelous.

The artist never made a preliminary sketch but started his picture directly with water color. This method and the three-dimensional quality of his painting are traceable to his experience in modeling. A visiting artist once told me that the medium used was known as "gouache." Dr. Reginald Poland, Director of the San Diego Fine Arts Gallery, informs me that this term is applied to water color which has a base of resin. This medium has a depth and a brilliancy that other water color does not possess.

Mr. Valentien's work was always meticulous and painstaking. Combined in him was the rare ability to make not only a picture for the artist but a workable drawing for the botanist. His attention to detail extended beyond the painting itself, for he carefully mounted, labeled and bound each finished water-color himself, entrusting it to no one else. The bindings were made of limp leather, laced together with leather thongs.

Evidently the artist put his paintings together as they were made, without regard to classification. Later, when they became our charge, at the instance of Mr. Frank Gander, at that time Curator of the Botanical Department, and with the approval of Mr. Clinton Abbott, then Director of the Museum, they were reassembled and rebound in botanical order. Owing to the fact that two subjects, far removed in relationship were sometimes painted on the same page, and thus obviously could not be included under any one classification, it fell to me to supervise the last volume, which is composed of a miscellaneous collection. This was done as a labour of love and executed with a care that I trust would have merited Mr. Valentien's approval.

The possibility of publishing reproductions of these pictures has been variously considered. Miss Scripps, herself, entertained this thought; two of the paintings, the California-poppy and the Lakeside wildlilac, *Ceonothus cyaneus*, were reproduced. However, the project had to be abandoned as adequate representations proved to be too expensive.

Besides the first paintings now in Cincinnati, 50 were purchased by

(Continued on page 10)



*Robert Calvin, who has contributed to the American Rose Annual, is eminently qualified to give us down-to-earth information on roses, not only because he has first-hand knowledge of local conditions, but also because his experience in garden classes makes him understand a beginner's problems.*

## How to Grow Roses

ROBERT H. CALVIN

### Location

San Diego's ideal climate, coupled with proper soil preparation, can produce roses second to none. When selecting a planting site for roses, choose a place where the roots of trees and shrubs will not steal the fertilizer the roses need for vigorous growth, and where annuals and perennials do not compete for growing space.

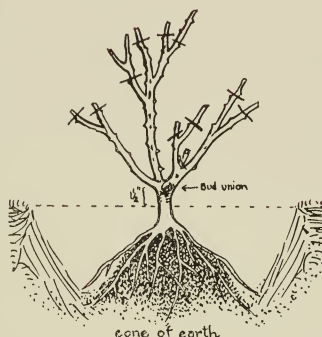
Roses do well in full sun but many of them perform better in half-shade. If they are to be in partial-shade, the best exposure is along the east or west side of a house or fence.

Good drainage is imperative. Good air circulation is equally important, to keep down mildew and rust, the two most serious fungus diseases we have here. Roses are not difficult, provided we give them the food and growing conditions they like.

### Soils and Preparation

Clay soils are not essential for success with roses. Excellent results may be expected from reasonably fertile soils, regardless of whether they are light or heavy. If the soil is too shallow, owing to underlying hardpan or rock formation, build up the beds with a clay loam or any good soil containing some humus.

An important requirement in growing fine roses is an abundance of compost or well-rotted cow manure. This supplies the necessary humus to unlock the elements for healthy plant growth. It also helps to combat the high alkalinity of our city water. It has been my experience that fungus diseases are easier to control when only well-



rotted manures are used in the soil or as a mulch.

Roses do best in a neutral, pH 7, to a slightly acid, pH 6, soil. If you have a clay or adobe soil, counteract its acidity, at the time of soil preparation, with gypsum, at the rate of 16 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. of area. One pound of sulphur to the same space will bring the pH down one point.

To prepare a rose-bed, entirely remove the top soil to one spadepdepth. Apply 4 in. to 6 in. of compost or well-rotted cow manure, and turn this into the bottom layer several times, until it is completely mixed with the soil. Bonemeal may be added to the manure, one large handful to each bush. Before replacing the top layer, thoroughly mix it with one bucketful of peat-moss to each bush. For best results, this soil preparation should be done several weeks in advance of planting.

### Select'ion of Stock

The wise gardener buys his bare root roses in January or February, preferably from local nurseries who offer stock superior, in most cases, to that from outside sources. Select plants with healthy root systems.

Bear in mind that the top of a plant is never any better than the roots. A top No. 1 grade rose should have three or more 18 in. canes, 1-2 in. in diameter, but a bush with two canes and a good root system will do very well.

### Beginner's List of Roses

The following list of roses will give the beginner varieties that have stood the test of time in this area. They perform consistently with vigorous growth under sound cultural practice and their ability to resist disease makes them desirable additions to any garden.

Reds—Etoile de Hollande, Christopher Stone, Grand Duchesse Charlotte.

Deep to Light Pink—Picture, Charlotte Armstrong, Pink Dawn.

White—McGredy's Ivory and Snowbird.

Yellow—Mrs. Pierre S. du Pont, Joanna Hill, Debonair.

Multicolor and Blends—Peace, Mme. Henri Guillot, Mrs. Sam McGredy, Girona, President Herbert Hoover.

None of these will be difficult to find locally.

### Planting

Examine the roots before planting and cut the damaged ends back to healthy tissue. If a root is partly broken at the base, remove it entirely.

For a symmetrical bush, always cut off any stubs ¼ in. above outside growth-buds on the canes, so the new growth will expand instead of interlacing. Keep the roots covered with wet moss or sacking so they will not dry out before planting.

Dig the planting holes 2 feet in diameter and about one foot deep. Put some of the soil back in the hole to form a cone of earth. Place the plant on top of this and adjust the height so that the bud-union will be 1½ in. above the soil level. Spread the roots so that they slope

(Continued on next page)



When Alfred Hottes gave a "walk talk" through the beautiful gardens of our recent Chrysanthemum Show, he drew his audience like a Pied Piper. His is the rare combination of a whole hearted love of nature and people, whom he delights to introduce to each other, an artistic expressiveness and scholarly botanical knowledge. Read his "Christmas Facts and Fancies" at this season.

## Natalplums for Fruits and Fragrant Flowers

ALFRED C. HOTTES

An armored group of shrubs of great beauty is being grown extensively throughout our area. The common Natalplum, *Carissa grandiflora*, bears white, waxy flowers with five petals followed by fruits often two inches long, dark scarlet, with a rather granular pulp and a milky juice. The flavor is like that of cranberries.

In Natal this shrub is known as the Fish-all-gone-plant because the fruit has the quality of rendering otherwise inedible meat more palatable.

The handsome leaves are oval, shining, produced in pairs. The branches bear long spines at every second and fourth leaf, sometimes these are forked.

There are a number of forms, some being quite prostrate, while others are small, rounded shrubs, but normally they grow 6 to 8 feet tall. Many seedlings are very free flowering and fruiting, while others have small flowers and no fruit.

In the "Fruits of Hawaii" by Carey D. Miller and Katherine Bazole, we read that the fruit,

when cooked with sugar, is a dark red but, without sugar, is less beautiful. To make a Natalplum jelly they suggest:

4 cups crushed ripe fruit  
2 cups water

Boil 20 minutes, or until quite tender. Strain through a sieve or jelly-bag. Measure and combine with an equal amount of sugar. Boil until it sheets from a spoon. Pour into jelly glasses.

For garden use, the Natalplum is valuable as an impenetrable planting because its thorns are vicious. It tolerates heat and drought but does best when watered. It seems impartial to soils. It can be severely pruned or left alone.

Several other species are seen. Perhaps the commonest is *Carissa carandas*, the Amatungula. This is a rangy shrub, almost a climber, best for espalier, training over a low wall, or for steep slopes. The leaves are smaller, the flowers are rosy tinted and pleasantly fragrant. The fruits are the size of small cherries, purple to black.

### How to Grow Roses

(Continued from page 8)

downward and distribute them evenly around the hole.

Pack the soil firmly around the roots to eliminate air pockets. Fill the hole about three-quarters full of soil and firm gently with the foot. Fill the remainder of the hole with water. After it drains away, add the remainder of the soil. Never allow any fresh manures or

commercial fertilizers to touch the plant or its roots.

Spray the newly-set-out roses with a solution of lime-sulphur, dormant strength. About a week after planting, make a basin around the bush and fill it with water. Do not fertilize newly planted roses until they are in full leaf. From here on, consistent watering, fertilizing, spraying and pruning spell healthy roses with superior blooms.

### Pruning Established Roses

From January 15 to February 15 is pruning time for established roses. Only general rules can be given for pruning, as every bush presents a different problem.

On bushes with more than three canes, remove one or more of the older ones down to the bud-union at the surface of the ground. This will encourage new canes to form at the bud-union, renewing the flowering wood and so increasing the life of the bush.

Cut back the remaining canes just below their first branches, provided there is a dormant growth-bud on the outside of the bush. If not, go up higher until you find one. If it is necessary to leave branches on some canes, cut them to a healthy outside growth-bud.

After pruning, remove and burn all foliage and spray bare canes and ground beneath them with lime-sulphur, dormant strength. A few days later apply about half a sack of compost or well-rotted manure around each bush and work it into the top 6 in. of the soil, mixing it in thoroughly. After the bush is in leaf, give a complete feeding of commercial fertilizer, according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.

### Poinsettias

It is unnecessary to mention Poinsettias; they speak for themselves in the loudest of tones. If the red color is too noisy, there are pink and yellow varieties. But a poinsettia in any color but red has betrayed its name as far as most of us are concerned.

Sometimes the stems will wilt, whether you burn or boil them after cutting. Run plenty of water in a bathtub and submerge them, flowers and all, overnight. They are almost sure to recover. The double variety blooms a little later, so it will be in better shape by Christmas, if the season is early.

There is something about the soft ocean air in La Jolla that makes everything there bloom earlier and a little more lush than elsewhere. Lucky is this member of our Garden staff whose observations stem from that enchanted clime.

## Worthwhile Vines

ETHEL H. CALLOWAY

*Phaseolus caracalla*, a twining perennial of the Pea family, with fragrant light purple flowers, summer to fall. The curved keel of the bud is responsible for the name, Corkscrewflower, or Snailflower. The foliage is rather sparse, which is often a desirable feature where sun is important.

*Cobaea scandens* has twisting tendrils at the leaf axils that make it the only climbing member of the Phlox family. It is usually treated as an annual. If the seeds are planted on edge in rich, moist soil, they grow rapidly, often attaining 20 feet in one season. This species is also called Cathedral bells or Cup-and-saucer-vine. The bell-shaped flowers shade from green to purple in color, above a leafy calyx. This is a good rampant grower for temporary effect.

*Distictis lactiflora* (cinerea) is a fine foil for the clusters of lavender.

*Passiflora pfordi*, called "Passion-flower," because its form is supposed to relate to different parts of the crucifixion. This variety is good through fall into winter, if weather is mild. The handsome leaves are in three parts. The flowers are most jewel-like; a corolla of ten pinkish-lavendar

petals surrounds a halo of bright blue filaments, centered with five odd stamens and three nail-like styles. The plant climbs with coiling tendrils. Blooms make fine lasting corsages.

*Hibbertia volubilis*, also called "Guinea Gold," is a low climber or trailer from Australia. It is vigorous in growth, with glossy dark green leaves, and single rose-like flowers of pure gold, but unpleasant odor, blooming on and off all year. It will take some frost, but likes a warm location.

*Hardenbergia comptoniana*, a twisting vine, with dainty elongated foliage, forms a fine tracery and grows to a good height. The small wisteria-like racemes of clear blue, pea-shaped flowers are valuable for winter color. It likes a slightly acid soil, obtained by using peat moss and leaf mold, with good drainage and partial shade. It also hails from Australia.

*Distictis latiflora* (cineraria)—A tall strong grower, equipped with tendrils to cling to stone or stucco. The thick dark green leaves are a fine foil for the clusters of lavender-to violet, trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom from spring to fall, or longer. Place this beautiful, but tender vine, in a warm, protected spot.

## An Easy Way to Germinate Seeds

January is the time to start young plants from seeds, especially tuberous begonias. Try this method.

Place a broken crock over the hole in a 7-in. clay pot. Fill the lower 4 in. with coarse gravel. Cork the hole in a 3-in. pot and set it on the gravel so it is level with the top of the large pot. Fill around it first with coarse, then with fine leafmold to within ½ in. of the top after watering. Finish off with ¼ in. of sphagnum that has been rubbed through a window screen. Scatter begonia seeds very thinly over the top and do not press down. Fill the middle pot with warm water and cover with glass and cardboard. When the seeds sprout, remove the cardboard and place in a strong light out of the sun. To maintain bottom heat, the pot is set on an inverted coffee can with a notch in the edge to accommodate the cord of a 25-watt light bulb.

—Editor.

## The Valentien Paintings

(Continued from page 7)

Mrs. Frederick Remington, the wife of the artist, and sent to Buffalo. Later, before his death in San Diego in 1926, Mr. Valentien sold a set of 50 California wild flower subjects to the State of California, for exhibition in Sacramento. These three small sets comprise the only other collections of Mr. Valentien's flower plates, aside from the large group owned by the San Diego Natural History Society. As time goes on, and many species of our flora become extinct through the onrush of civilization—many are already gone from their native haunts—Mr. Valentien's paintings will assume ever greater and greater scientific value, and it is doubtful if their artistic merit will ever even be equalled again.

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In this article, the second of a series, our "Seer of Little Things" catches more highlights from Nature's everyday world and holds them out in her apron of words for us to enjoy with her.

## Leaves From The Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

*"How sweet the west wind sounds in my pine tree:  
How graceful climb the shadows on the distant hill."  
(Adapted from David Grayson)*

Trees  
The wind comes in cool gusts this morning. I watch the reactions of each separate tree.

The pine tree rocks imperceptibly while its every needle quivers in the wind. The tree says, "Be calm. Be responsive to what Life brings." The olive trees seem distraught and temperamental. They look emotionally unstable. Like ballerinas in their dance, the eucalyptus branches sway rhythmically on the tiptoes of their long grey trunks.

Clouds  
The clouds defy description! Just now, as if placed in their exact positions by the hand of a master painter, they have grouped themselves over the wide valley to pattern a perfect symphony of light and shade. The clouds lie behind the first range of mountains, and blot out, as if on purpose, the range beyond.

I gaze absorbedly at such exquisite beauty. I try to catch each detail of form, outline, and color. Closing my eyes I let the spirit of the scene speak. A sense of wonder glides in upon me. The clouds call, "Now, look!" I open my eyes. Each view is more thrilling than the last! The clouds defy description.

I can say this,—a white cloud racing across a blue sky is the most freeing sight I know.

*"Free as the whim  
of a spook on a spree!"  
—Bliss Carman.*

Neighbors  
How blue the wood smoke looks

against the trees as it curls upward from my neighbor's red brick chimney atop his green roof! I imagine the smell of the burning aromatic eucalyptus logs, and I strain my mental ears to hear the snapping of the fire on the hearth.

My neighbor's one-story house is built of weathered brown shingles. It hides behind thick shrubbery. A white ruffled curtain flutters at the only window I can see. Below the window is a red-berried hawthorn. My neighbor, straight of back and white of hair, in a dress slightly more orange than the hawthorn, steps lightly about examining the shrubs.

The stalwart master of the house appears and empties his wastebasket. His trash barrel is a large oil drum painted royal blue, and his work clothes are khaki-colored. His fine shock of white hair matches the snow on the rim of the distant mountains.

Two little girls come skipping by in green coats and red tasseled caps. They stop to watch the master of the house at work. They ask him questions until finally he stoops down, kisses them, and sends them on their way, watching them out of sight. You felt his love of children in every gesture. When he turns and disappears into the back garden, we sit wondering if he is working among his famous dahlias.

*Pinus canariensis*

Jonathan, the youngest of five, was eight years old when he gave me a prospective pine tree in a five-gallon can, and planted it way

out behind the tennis court. Later we moved the wing of our house beyond the pine tree to the southeast corner of the property.

We then sold our big house and moved over into the wing. Meanwhile, like Mr. Phinney's turnip, the tree grew and grew. It grew tall and vigorous.

Until we built the second-story porch on to the wing, I thought very little about the pine tree. Then the first time I stepped out on the porch, there it stood only a few feet away in all its uprightness—strong, protecting, and very decorative.

Every spring each whorl sprouts a candle-like new growth. The tree has outdone itself this year. It thrives on admiration—like the rest of us. It is a superb background for any bird that lingers in its branches.

A fleeting lovely picture today was a bird the size of a sparrow that lighted for a moment on the tip of one of the tree's outer branches. The bird's head and breast were a strawberry red. Sitting there among the tree's candles of new growth, his beautiful red feathers contrasted strikingly with the long green needles. He looked like some Christmas tree ornament we had forgotten to remove.

Bless Jonathan for his gift of the *Pinus canariensis*.

Birds

More birds of the sparrow size with red heads and red breasts are flying in and out of my pine tree. I

(Continued on page 15)



"O wall, O sweet and lovely wall, show me thy chink to blink through with mine eyne," at Gordon Baker Lloyd, who is heard and seen on radio and television with the easy magic of a *Midsummer Nights Dream*. Did you listen to the informative chrysanthemum talk our new columnist gave in person at our last Show? Welcome, Gordon, to this Garden page that we may learn of 'stuff that dreams are made of.'

## Gardening with Gordon

GORDON BAKER LLOYD

I count it a wonderful privilege to be chatting with you folks from time to time, in this, the oldest horticultural publication in America. As winter approaches us Southwestern gardeners, we sort of slow up in our gardening habits and oftimes cease entirely. Let's not! There is so much to be doing in these "darker months."

*A garden in the window:* I don't mean one inside, but one just outside the window. This is how it is done. Outside a window, make a shelf, 18 to 24 in. wide, with the necessary supports. Lean a piece of sash from the shelf to the window to form a triangle. Cover the sides, of course. This little window garden may seem small to you, but it can hold a lot of materials, from growing seeds to bulbs in pots, and even growing plants. Work at this garden from inside the room.

*Peach tree spraying:* As buds begin to open on peaches during January or February, you should give them their second spraying with a good fungicide that will take care of peach-leaf curl. Remember, do it as the buds open for there is no control at any other time, except in November.

*Divisions:* Even during December we can still do some dividing. Try it on agapanthus, perennial phlox and geums. Make small divisions from around the crown. The center of the plant, the oldest part, is usually discarded.

*Dahlia storage:* This year I intend to store my dahlias in dirt. I have been watching top growers in the West in their storage practices for several years. More and more

they agree on taking up the clump, shaking off excess dirt, and storing in fruit boxes in clean dry soil. For a fact, in carefully controlled experiments last season, we found that, compared to sand, peatmoss and other mediums, the dirt storage brought less rot and the tubers were fresher and plumper. Next year they can be divided and carried on from there. Store in a cool, well ventilated place, such as a basement or garage.

*Rose planting:* More than ever we need to learn that roses do best and look best in masses of colors. Try it this year instead of having them all over the place. And when you plant, be sure the roots sit on little mounds of earth so they can spread in all directions.

*Rose pruning:* I have been interested in rose information from the Pacific Rose Society relative to pruning. We have been pruning too early in our mild climate and too far back. Let's prune no sooner than February 15, and half-way back, instead of two-thirds. I think you will find that the roses will do better. Maybe a little help by keeping out the dead wood, cutting off sucker-like wood, and heading back any over-growth during the year would save a lot of shock to the plant during the season.

*How about yard corners?* I am talking about some of your street corners. Are they planted so high that the passing motorist cannot see around them? Might be good to check on this, for any home gardener would hate to add to traffic hazards.

*Vacant lot next door:* A delega-

tion came in the other day to see if I would help tear down all the billboards . . . when billboards have been with us for years and will be with us . . . it's true, I am for keeping them out of beauty spots, and the companies are very cooperative about that . . . but when it comes to beautification, there are lots of things I can do and get done myself — the back alley, the vacant lot and even the front yard. Think what could be achieved if we tackled all the empty lots and planted 3-foot areas across the front. That would help to stop dumping and trash accumulation. Just a thought, just a thought.

*At the end of the row:* We work with flowers, we say we love flowers and we belong to flower groups. But aren't we over-concerned sometimes with manure applications, pruning and spray formulas? That's one reason I like to read "Garden Facts and Fancies" by our own Alfred Hottes. Gives that new touch we all need in gardening.

The home gardener, of all folks, should be the happiest and most unselfish person. Do you see the flowers turning aside when you pass them? Where are their faces? Pointed which way? Why can't we smile and be as cheery to the neighbor, to the friend and to the passer-by? . . . now that we are in the Christmas season, it seems to me that we could radiate this cheer of ours all the year around, rather than just once. Do you want flowers that smile only once? Can you imagine such a garden? Yep, it would be well for us to learn a bit from the things we love to work with. As ever, G. L.

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*In San Diego you can tune in on Gordon over KMPC, Wed., 6:45 A.M. and KFI-EV channel 9, Wed., and Thurs., 3:30 P.M.*



### Camellias in Containers

(Continued from page 6)

more. Each of the redwood boxes can be used for two step-up repottings, if the box is filled only two-thirds full the first time.

A redwood box can be quickly and easily made of rough, un-surfaced redwood of one-inch thickness. For an 18-inch box, a board 12 inches wide gives the right depth. Cut four side panels, 18 inches wide at the top and 16 inches wide at the base. This allows a one-inch taper per side. Next, using eight-penny nails, nail the sides together by overlapping one on the other in succession. This produces a box without any ends, one which may be opened at any corner. Turn the box upside down and nail on the bottom boards of any width, cut to size. Do not fit the bottom boards too closely, because of drainage and the necessity of removing them in the future.

Two blocks, three inches by five inches, fastened to two opposite sides near the top serve as handles, or run a 1x3-inch border strip around the upper edge for strength as well as handles. Drill five or six three-quarter-inch holes in the bottom of the box and one near the bottom of each side panel. Sand and round off all edges. Place an inch of gravel in the bottom.

These boxes may be re-used several times. When transplanting, first remove the bottom and then open up one corner of the box. This allows the camellia to slide through the bottom of the box into its new container with a minimum of disturbance. Clean and wash off any soil, re-nail the corner and bottom, and your box is ready again.

The many advantages of container-grown camellias, a few of which I have listed, with suggestions for their culture, make the beauty of camellias available to everyone, from bungalow - court dweller to ranch resident.

*There would seem to be no finer gift for a gardener than a beautiful book about his hobby.*

## NEW BOOKS

ADA McLOUTH

Flowers; The Flower Piece in European Painting; With an Introduction by Margaretta Salinger; With 45 Illustrations. (Harper's Art Library. Painters and Their Subjects.) *Harper and Brothers, New York, 1949, \$5.00.*

Flower Paintings by Martin Hardie. *F. Lewis, Ltd., Essex, England. 1947. \$3.00.*

It may be said that each of these two books is a labor of love; one a scholarly presentation by the Curator of Paintings, Metropolitan Museum of Art; the other a selection by an English artist from the work of contemporary British artists. One may turn these pages to experience aesthetic thrills, to induce aesthetic moods.

For the garden lover there is, in Miss Salinger's collection, the further delight of recognition as the loved flowers of today appear in ancient holy context. For the flower arranger there is the added interest of noting how the artist combines forms and colors. Even the study of flower containers as they appear in altar pieces and secular studies from the thirteenth century on show strikingly little variation from those used today and exemplify the continuity of flowers in the life of man.

The loving care with which certain artists of the seventeenth century portrayed the enemies of flowers adds a note of the bizarre, not to say shock, to certain of the paintings, where spiders, caterpillars, grasshoppers, are done with the same tender feeling given to the damask rose.

Miss Salinger's notes on the pictures are discriminating and add much to the charm of her book.

Mr. Hardie's introduction to his collection of paintings is brief and

let the pictures speak for themselves. In many of his choices are bright flower containers reflecting the surrounding, as in plate 11, where one detects the room's occupant in happy contemplation,—or is she serving tea?

The reproductions are extremely satisfying. The volumes are easy and pleasant to handle. One lays them down only to look forward to picking them up again at the first opportunity.

The Vegetable Calendar, \$1.00. William D. Eyster.

*Rodale Press, Emmaus, Penn.*

In this handy manual for planting vegetables, spring and fall frost maps are included and tables may be used to find the planting dates for any particular crop in any specific region. Other tables give pH values, space requirements, maturity time, transplanting data and seed viability.

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**Artichokes to Zucchini**

(Continued from page 4)

The Cucumbers are from India and Africa and have been in cultivation for over 4000 years.

Gerard recites some unusual uses of the Cucumber: "The fruit cut in pieces or chopped as herbes to the pot, and boyled in a small pipkin with a piece of mutton, beeing made into a potage with oatmeal, whereof a messe eaten to breakfast, as much for dinner, and the like to supper; taken in this manner for the space of three weeks together without intermission doth perfectly cure all manner of sauce flegmes and copper faces, red and shining fierie noses, as red as Red Roses, with pimples, pumple, rubies, and such like precious faces. Provided always that during the time of curing you do use to wash or bathe the face with the following liquor: Take a pint of strong white wine vinegre, powder of the roots of Ireos or Orrise three dragmes feared or bolted into most fine dust, Brimstone in fine powder halfe a ounce, Camphire two dragmes, stamped with two blanched Almonds, four Oake apples cut thorow the middle and juyce of foure limons; put them all together in a strong double glass, shake them together very strongly, setting the same in the Sunne for the space of ten daies, with which let the face be washed and bathed dailey, suffering it to drie of itselfe without wiping it away. This doth

not onely help fierie faces but also taketh away lentils, spots, morpheu, Sunborne, and all other deformities of the face."

The White Potato belongs to the Nightshade Family, the Sweet Potato belongs to the Morning Glory Family. These two varieties of "Potato" are natives of South America and have been in use as food plants for over 4000 years. After the Spanish conquest of South America both types of Potato were brought into Spain and from there were distributed into other countries of Europe.

Sir Walter Ralieghe is credited with introducing the White Potato into Ireland. Both in England and Ireland it was denounced as a food unfit for human consumption. An antipotato faction was formed called the "Society for the Prevention of Unclean Diet." It is stated that from the initials of this society some Irish wit created the word "spud" for this undesirable foreign vegetable. The Scotch-Irish colonists who came to America in 1716 brought the White Potato to the Atlantic seaboard, hence the name Irish Potato.

Other familiar plants of the garden belong to the Nightshade Family: The Egg Plant, a native of India and the East Indies, which has been in cultivation for over 4000 years; the Sweet Peppers and the Chile Peppers, natives of South America and of very ancient culti-

vation, and the Tomato. The latter is another garden plant that has been in cultivation for thousands of years. The Aztec name for this fruit was Xtomatle, pronounced S-to-ma-til, from which is derived the word "Tomato."

In Gerard's Herbal, Tomatoes are designated "Pome amoris", "Apples of Love".

"Apples of Love grow in Spaine, Italie and such hot countries from where myself have received seeds for my garden, where they doe increase and prosper. In Spaine and those hot Regions they use to eate the apples prepared and boyled with pepper, salt and oyle, but they yield little nourishment to the body, and the same naught and corrupt. Likewise they doe eat the apples with oyle, vinegre and pepper together for sauce for their meate, even as we in these cold countries doe mustard."

The many varieties of Garden Squash we know today have been developed from about a dozen primitive forms that were growing in the Americas when the Europeans arrived in the fifteenth century. One of the latest hybrid squash to be introduced into our gardens is that very succulent vegetable, the Zucchini Squash. A hybrid possibly developed in Italy, it is now one of our choice garden vegetables.

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have been saving  
for 43 years!

Although it is not generally classed as a garden plant we will conclude this history of vegetables with Gerard's entertaining notes on "Tobacco, or Henbane of Peru":

"The Vertues. Nicolaus Monardis saith, that the leaves hereof are a remedie for the paine of the head called Megram or Migram, that hath bin of long continuance; and also for a cold stomack, especially in children, and that it is good against paine in the kidnies. The juyce boyled in sugar in the form of a syrup, and taken inwardly, driveth forth wormes of the belly, if withall a leafe is layd to the navell. The weight of four ounces of the juyce hereof drunk doth purge and procureth afterward a long and sound sleep, as we have learned from a friend by observation, who affirmed: That a strong countryman of middle age having a dropsie, took it, and beeing wakened out of his sleep called for meate and drinke, and after that became perfectly cured. Moreover, the same man reporteth, that he had cured many countrymen of agues, with the distilled water of the leaves drunke before the fit.

"The dried leaves are used to be taken in a pipe set on fire and suckt into the stomacke, and thrust forth again at the nostrils, against the paines in the head, rheumes, aches in any part of the bodie, wheresoever the originall proceed, whether from France, Italy, Spaine, Indies, or from our familiar and best known diseases. Those leaves

## Leaves From The Observers Notebook

(Continued from page 11)

should know the name of them, why should I? They don't know it, and it doesn't worry them!

Rain

To your knees, O Californians! And unite with your brethren in this old New England prayer for rain:

*O Lord, thou knowest we do not want thee to send us a rain which should pour down in fury and swallow our streams, and carry away our hay-cocks, fences, and bridges; but Lord, we want it to come down drizzle-drozzle, drizzle-drozzle for about a week.*

*Amen.*

do palliate or ease for a time, but never perform any cure absolutely, for although they empty the bodie of humors, yet the cause of the grief cannot be so taken away. The oyle or juyce dropped into the eares is good against deafnesse, a cloth dipped in the same and layd upon the face, taketh away lentils, rednesse, and spots thereof. Most notable medicines are made hereof against the old inveterat cough, against asthmaticall or pectorall griefes, all of which if I should set down at large, would require a peculiar volume."

## Trees to Plant

For the feeling of winter, every garden of any size, should have deciduous trees whose foliage makes a splash of color before falling. *Ginkgo biloba* is one of these. Sometimes known as the Maiden-hair-tree, because of its leaf form, or as the Sacred tree-of-China because from remote times it has been preserved in the temple court-yards, we love its golden color in the autumn and its freedom from pests.

*Liquidambar straciflua* is another handsome subject, especially adapted to the small garden because of its pyramidal form. The five-pointed maple-like leaves turn a gay red and orange. When they drop, spiny seed-balls trim the bare limbs. The bark is exceptionally dark and furrowed. This tree is very healthy, even in a lawn, where it will stand constant watering.

The wine-colored leaves of *Prunus pissardi* take the place of the Purple Beech in California. Its rich tints are particularly welcome in the later months, even as one looks forward to its white plum blooms in the spring. It does not get too large. All the deciduous trees have the advantage of being very hardy.

An African tree that always excites a new-comer is *Dombeya wallichii*. In our winter it bears lavender-pink flowers, not unlike small eastern snowballs, on long stringy stems. These are very showy against the large thick velvety foliage. Quick growing and spreading, give this tree lots of room in a spot where the untidiness of the dried flower balls will not be noticed. It is sensitive to frost. Needs a rich deep soil. A. M. C.

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## Your Garden

EMILY CLAYTON

DECEMBER: In this last month of the year put out small plants for early spring color and fragrance. Nurseries should still have on hand planting size calendulas, primulas, larkspurs, pansies, phlox, snapdragons, stocks, and violas . . . There are also bulbs, like anemones and ranunculas on the market which may be put in during December. Gladiolus corms planted now will bloom in April. Tulip and hyacinth bulbs may go in if they have been in the refrigerator or deep-freeze for a week or so. Be sure to plant them deep, mix the soil with bone meal, set the bulb on a bed of sand . . . If you plant sweetpeas this late, be careful not to permit the cold water of winter to stand against their stems when they first come up. It is always wiser to water sweetpeas from a trench alongside the row, but not touching it. . . . Prepare the ground for new bare-root roses which are available by January . . . Late this month or early in January, put fertilizer around iris but avoid having it come in contact with the rhizomes . . . If you have an empty lot or canyon near by, sow wild flower seeds; given favorable conditions they will germinate in the spring. Buy camellias and azaleas now to enjoy their blooms when other flowers are scarce . . . Living plants for the outdoors, as well as inside, make perfect gifts and it is a joy instead of a task to shop for them. Easier still, buy gift certificates . . . Clean up the garden this month. Put all those dead leaves and weeds in the compost.

JANUARY: The beginning of the year is the last call for anemone, ranunculus and lilium bulbs. Gladiolus, planted now, bloom in May. It is too cold for sowing seeds in

open ground but it is the usual month for pruning roses. Chrysanthemums and dahlias should also be cut right down to the ground, taking care to reset the labels . . . It is better to let dahlias die down where they are . . . Hydrangeas may be pruned now and fuchsias towards the end of the month. Plants that flower in the spring should not be pruned until their blooming season is past. Cut back the berried shrubs after the berries have fallen. This is a good month for planting or moving shrubs, vines and trees . . . Get ready for the growing months to come by enriching the soil with compost and fertilizer . . . January gives us indoor time to work out new arrangements of beds and planting . . . Make a resolution to keep a notebook so that the inspirations of winter or other bright ideas during the year will not be forgotten when it comes time to put them into effect.

FEBRUARY: For June flowers, sow seeds of clarkia candytuft, calliopsis, annual chrysanthemums, godetia, larkspurs, phlox and viscaria . . . Take up and divide perennials like anchusa, columbine, coreopsis dianthus, erigeron, gazania, geum, huechera, phlox, salvia and veronica . . . Put in more gladiolus and bare-root roses . . . Leave dahlias to dry out . . . If chrysan-

themums are showing new shoots at the base, separate and reset the young plants, throwing the center away. However, cleaner and healthier plants will come from cuttings made later . . . Watch lilies, cinerarias and other plants for aphids at this season. Many can be washed off with a hard spray of water . . . Poinsettias should be leafless by now and ready to be cut down. Cultivate after heavy February rains.

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